

Ken Reeves, a Memphis Fire Department battalion chief, recalled:

I think everybody in the country was of the mindset, "Just let me have something to do," and we had something to do.

Well, they sure did. Tennessee Task Force 1 toiled 16 hours a day for 9 straight days. They slept on cots in a warehouse not too far from here, without air-conditioning. They often lost track of time, devoting every second of the day, every ounce of energy and attention, to a task that was as difficult and as gruesome as it was grueling.

September 11, 2001, drastically altered the future course of our Nation. It also profoundly changed our individual lives. We will forever be touched by the outpouring of compassion, the outpouring of charity, and the kindness of millions of our citizens and people all around the world.

Brenda Vandever said of what she hopes for this and future anniversaries: "I just don't want [Tony] to be forgotten."

To Brenda and to all of the families who lost their loved ones on that morning of September 11, 2001, I say this morning: Your loved ones will not be forgotten. We will remember them, we will honor them, and we will cherish them on this day, every year, for as long as God wills this Nation to endure.

I yield the floor.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Democratic leader is recognized.

REMEMBERING SEPTEMBER 11, 2001

Mr. DASCHLE. Tomorrow, in New York, at the Pentagon, in Shanksville, PA, and in communities all across our Nation, Americans will pause to remember the horror and the extraordinary heroism of September 11. Commemoration ceremonies will be held in firehouses, VFW halls, parks, churches, synagogues, mosques, libraries, and countless other places.

Surely one of the most poignant remembrance events is an exhibit that is being held through Sunday at a small art gallery in New York City, not far from where the twin towers once stood. It is an exhibit of artwork by children who lost family members—mostly parents—when the towers came crashing down.

We all lost so much, so quickly, on that terrible day. But few lost more than the children of September 11. Three thousand children lost a parent in the terrorist attacks on America. Nearly two dozen of those children never met their fathers; they were born after September 11.

Many thousands more children lost someone close to them: a grandparent, a brother or sister, an aunt or uncle.

Over the last 3 years, 400 of the children of September 11 have sought com-

fort, strength, and answers in therapy programs offered by the WorldTrade Center Family Center at South Nassau Communities Hospital on Long Island. The exhibit this weekend showcases art these children have created during their therapy sessions.

With the permission of the children and their families, I would like to show you some of their work.

This was painted by a 9-year-old son of a New York City firefighter who died in the collapse of the towers. This is a baseball diamond. In the outfield are two huge crosses. The little boy who painted this picture said it is a picture of the moment he first realized how much he missed his dad. He had just hit a home run; he was rounding the bases and looked up to search for his father's face in the stands.

Angels are a recurring image in the children's art. This angel looks like the Statue of Liberty. She is delivering a message to heaven.

A month after the attacks, the children were asked to try to imagine how they might feel about their loss over time. This series of paintings is a collective effort by about 40 of the children of September 11 to answer that question. It is called "Seasons of Grief." It shows four trees. The trees start out separate and alone. By the last panel, they are leaning toward each other, almost as if they are helping to hold each other up.

Even in the depths of unspeakable grief, the children of September 11 understood instinctively that there are sorrows we cannot bear alone, but there is nothing we cannot get through together. That is a lesson we all understood—immediately and instinctively—on that terrible day.

Three years later, what we remember about September 11 is not only the shock, and horror, and grief. We also remember the stunning heroism of the firefighters climbing the stairs—the passengers and crew members of Flight 93 defying their hijackers and the rescue workers toiling day and night.

We remember, too, how differently, and clearly, we seemed to see things after the attacks. We saw beyond the old labels. We were not black, white, red, brown, yellow, rich or poor, Republicans or Democrats. We were one people, indivisible—broken-hearted but not broken apart. Our recognition of our common bonds was our comfort, and our strength.

Three years later, we remember the great kindness and generosity with which people treated each other—even total strangers, even thousands of miles from the attack sites.

Don and Adele Hight own a family ranch in Murdo, SD. On September 11, they had already struggled through 2 years of drought. They sold 100 calves and donated the proceeds—more than \$40,000—to help victims of the attacks. The manager of the local Livestock Association called their donation "an act of kindness, generosity and true Americanism."

The Smith Equipment Company in Watertown, SD, makes heavy duty torches. In the days after the attacks, their cutting supplies were in high demand. So 175 employees at Smith Equipment volunteered to work around the clock to produce tons of equipment and rush it to Ground Zero.

A week after the Twin Towers fell, two men from Sioux Falls loaded up a pickup truck with \$20,000 worth of donated steel-toed boots, tube socks, and work gloves, drove to New York, distributed the protective gear to rescue workers at Ground Zero, and then got back in their truck and drove straight home.

All across South Dakota, school children, Scout troops, church organizations, employees and customers of small businesses, and countless others donated money for victims relief funds. At least one couple donated their tax-refund checks. People stood in line to donate blood. Some enlisted, or re-enlisted, in the military. People sacrificed. And they prayed for those who died, and the families they left, for the surviving victims, the rescue workers, and for our wounded nation.

Part of the sadness many of us feel as we approach this third anniversary of September 11 has to do with how divided our Nation sometimes feels now.

We cannot reclaim those we lost on September 11. But we can reclaim the sense of unity and generosity that their sacrifice inspired in us. It is still there. It is still within us.

The families of September 11 have endorsed a project called "One Day's Pay." It encourages people to observe the anniversary of September 11 by donating one day's pay, or one day's labor, to a community organization—to channel our sadness and anger for constructive purposes.

Those of us who have the privilege of serving our Nation in elected offices have another job to do as well. We can—and we must—work together, in good faith, to make America safer—without sacrificing the freedoms that make America great. We do not have the luxury of delay.

The terrorists who attacked us struck at the symbols of our financial and military might because they thought those symbols were America's greatest strengths. They were wrong. The real measure of America's greatness is not in glass and steel. It is in our people. It is in our shared commitment to freedom and democracy—and to each other. As the children of September 11 understood instinctively, we need each other.

Wherever we find ourselves tomorrow morning, let us remember not only the horror of September 11, but also the unity and the kindness we witnessed that day. And let us vow to honor those we lost by keeping the spirit of September 11 alive in our hearts. If we do, then, in a real way, those we lost will live on forever.

I yield the floor.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The remainder of the leader time will be reserved.

The majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, we will resume consideration of the Homeland Security appropriations bill directly. As I indicated last night, the chairman and ranking member have made substantial progress on the bill. We will continue that progress over the course of today. As we announced yesterday, there will be no rollcall votes during today's session. We do expect amendments to be offered. That will begin shortly—during consideration of the bill this morning. I understand we have some cleared amendments that we may dispose of shortly. I will defer to the chairman for an update. We can begin that process shortly.

Any votes that may be ordered on the pending amendments will be ordered to occur on Monday. Senators should expect more than one rollcall vote during Monday's session. We will say more about the timing of these votes before we close later today.

Again, our goal is to complete this bill on Tuesday or early Wednesday morning. This will require the cooperation of all Senators as we move toward completion of this important legislation. We have made real progress and we will continue to make real progress over the course of the day.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Democratic leader is recognized.

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, I reiterate what the majority leader has just announced and articulated. We have made progress. I appreciate the cooperation we are getting on both sides. We have gotten to the point where there is absolutely no reason why we cannot finish this bill prior to the time we adjourn for Rosh Hashanah next week.

We will continue to work as we have this week to winnow down the amendments, to have time limits on what amendments need to be offered, and we will work with the majority leader to ensure we can reach that goal. I am confident we can and we will continue to work at it throughout the day and on Monday.

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, thank you. I think the progress has been made, and I will also state while the Democratic leader is here, we are making real progress on intelligence reform, both recommendations in terms of the relationship with the executive branch as well as internal organization and reorganization and potential reform there.

A lot of people do not see that much is going on, but we are working throughout the day, each and every day, on what we both have mentioned this morning is very important business that we need to act on before we complete the session.

At this juncture I think we will turn to the chairman.

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2005

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of H.R. 4567, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 4567) making appropriations for the Department of Homeland Security for fiscal year ending September 30, 2005, and for other purposes.

Pending:

Nelson of Florida amendment No. 3607, to provide funds for the American Red Cross.

Schumer amendment No. 3615, to appropriate \$100,000,000 to establish an identification and tracking system for HAZMAT trucks and a background check system for commercial driver licenses.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Tennessee.

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak for up to 6 minutes as in morning business.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, we have no objection as long as Senator DURBIN is recognized for a like amount of time.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Tennessee is recognized for up to 6 minutes and the Senator from Illinois is recognized for up to 6 minutes.

ON THE ANNIVERSARY OF 9/11

Mr. ALEXANDER. I thank the chairman for the time and the leadership.

I simply wish to join our leaders today in remembrance of the tragic events of September 11. As I remember those events, I remember more how clearly our country pulled together in response. September 11 is one of our worst days but it brought out the best in us. It unified us as a country and showed our charitable instincts and reminded us of what we stood for and stand for. It showed that we had the resolve to fight against terrorism. We put partisanship aside in our Government offices. We began to proudly say to the rest of the world, we know what it means to be an American.

The best way we can remember September 11 is to remember why this is an exceptional country. We are the only country in the world that has taken people from so many different backgrounds, which is a great achievement by itself, but an even greater achievement is that we have turned all of that variety and diversity into unity. That unity depends upon a few principles in which we believe: liberty, equal opportunity, individualism.

President Bush has eloquently spoken of the American character since September 11. But we in the Senate have a role to play, too. That is why, with the support of many other Senators on both sides of the aisle, I have been working hard to harness that spirit to help us remember for generations to come what it means to be an Amer-

ican. That means teaching it to our children and to those who become new citizens of our country.

One of the great tragedies of education in this country today is that high school seniors perform worse in American history than in any other subject for which they are nationally tested. That is not right. The assistant Democratic leader, Senator REID, and I proposed legislation last year which passed the Senate without a dissenting vote to create summer academies for outstanding students and teachers in U.S. history. The House still needs to act on this bill.

The Senator from Massachusetts, Mr. KENNEDY, and I have introduced legislation that would allow our Nation's report card to test eighth graders and high school seniors on U.S. history, on a pilot State-by-State basis. This will help us know where it is being taught well and where it is not so improvements can be made. Shining the spotlight on these results also encourages school districts to work harder to teach American history and civics as well.

The Senator from New York, Mr. SCHUMER, and I have introduced legislation to preserve the oath of allegiance in its present form, so that oath—to which all new citizens swear on naturalization—is given the same respect as we give to the Pledge of Allegiance, to the national anthem, and to the American flag.

While that legislation is pending in committee, with the support of the chairman, the Senator from Mississippi, the Senate unanimously passed yesterday an amendment to the Homeland Security appropriations bill to prevent the oath from being changed during the next fiscal year while the Senate works its will on the legislation proposed by the Senator from New York and me.

I am also working on a second amendment to that legislation to establish a new foundation that will work with the Office of Citizenship to promote the teaching of English, history, and civics to the soon-to-be new citizens of our country and to other new citizens. We are a nation of immigrants. We are proud of that. We should do our best to help those who are new to our country become thriving members of our society so they can learn our history, learn about citizenship, speak our common language. That will help them on the path to the American dream.

The Senate has been hard at work over the last 2 years to help enshrine the values and history that bind us together as Americans. Nothing could be more important as we remember September 11, as we mourn those we lost, but take pride in what was found, our national unity. The best way to remember September 11 is to remember what it means to be an American.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SMITH). The Senator from Illinois may speak for up to 6 minutes.